

Sub
E1
E2
subjecting said wound electrodes to heat treatment so that said solid-electrolyte layers formed on said positive electrode and said solid-electrolyte layers formed on said negative electrode are integrated with each other into one continuous seamless layer.

Sub
E2
Claim 9. (New claim.) The method of claim 7, wherein said wound electrodes are subjected to heat treatment at about 70° C to about 100° C.

Claim 10. (New claim.) The method of claim 7, wherein said wound electrodes are subjected to heat treatment for about ten minutes.

"[O]ne or more pages separate from the amendment, marked up to show all of the changes relative" to the previous versions of the paragraphs and claims are provided in Appendix A attached herewith.¹

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 8 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action of August 27, 2002, claims 1 - 8 were rejected. The Examiner alleged that claims 1 - 6 are anticipated by Sonozaki et al.² under §102(e)³, and claims 7 - 8 are unpatentable over Narang et al.⁴ in view of Schneider et al.⁵ under §103(a)⁶. Further, the Examiner has objected to claims 3 and 6 under §1.75(c)⁷ as being of improper dependent form.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1 - 6, so the §102(e) rejection and the objection under §1.75(c) is moot.

Independent claim 7 recites forming solid-electrolyte layers on both sides of the negative and the positive electrodes and winding them so one of the solid-electrolyte layers from each of the negative electrode and the positive electrode face each other. Narang et al., however, does not teach coating both sides of the electrodes with the solid-electrolyte. Narang et al. actually teaches away from solid-electrolyte layers on both sides of the electrodes because it teaches one mechanical separator.⁸ This shows that Narang et al.'s teachings are directed to only one side of an electrode being coated with a solid electrolyte.

NO
Alt. Comb.

¹ Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

² U.S. Pat. No. 6,206,973.

³ 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

⁴ U.S. Pat. No. 6,168,885.

⁵ U.S. Pat. No. 6,180,281.

⁶ 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

⁷ 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c).

⁸ See Narang et al., col. 11, line 13.

If, instead, Narang et al. intended or suggested coating both sides of the electrodes, two separators would be necessary. Schneider et al. does not even teach wound electrodes, far less the structure recited in claim 7. Further, the two references combined do not teach or render obvious the aforementioned features recited in claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is patentable over Narang et al. and Schneider et al., whether alone or combined.

Pending claims 8 - 10 are dependent claims that depend on independent claim 7. Because independent claim 7 is patentable over the cited references as discussed above, these dependent claims are likewise patentable over these references because they incorporate the limitations of their respective parent independent claim.

Applicants also submit that the amendments to claim 7 and new claims 9 and 10 have support in the specification, so they do not comprise new matter. More particularly, this disclosure is included in Example 1 described on pages 15 - 18 of the specification.

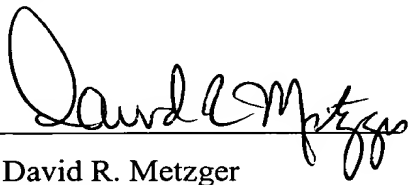
CONCLUSION

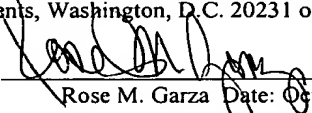
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 7 - 10 are patentable over the cited references. Further, all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed herein. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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